

BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 16, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. in the Flett Room by Hal Shubin, Chair. Present were Trustees Elaine Alligood, Mary Keenan, Matt Lowrie, David Rich, and Heli Tomford and Director Maureen Connors.

The minutes for the August 12th meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Trustee Lowrie, seconded by Trustee Alligood.

Old Business:

Director Connors discussed the final stages of the Long Range Plan (LRP). Thanks are extended to David Otte for his work on town demographics, Clark Elliott for his history of the library, and David Rich for his idea involving photographs correlating with the town's history. This LRP has more focus on technology - updating the website, downloading books and music, and children's pod casting. This LRP with its attention to patrons - especially baby boomers and Young Adults (YA) - goes into effect in July of 2009.

The One Book, One Belmont Committee has chosen Barbara Kingsolver's Animal, Vegetable, Miracle as the Community Reads book for 2009. The best time for scheduling related programs was discussed, with late September into October 2009 seemingly the best time to tie-in with a debt-exclusion vote in November, 2009. Given the book's topic and its relevance to the town's 150th anniversary, events throughout the year were recommended.

The circulation desk reconfiguration project will be underway soon.

Now that Belmont has a \$5.3M state library construction grant, Chair Shubin detailed the work done to secure the site on the north side of Concord Avenue, including meeting with the School Committee. Trustee Alligood also attended this meeting. The School Committee did not say no to the site idea. There is concern over the role of the White Field House and responsibility for the cost of replacing this structure as well as a temporary structure needed for the football and hockey teams.

The next step will be for the trustees to meet with the Board of Selectmen to determine if there are obstacles in the trustees' moving ahead with planning. Director Connors will check if October 6th will be the date for this. A great deal of work must be done in the next twelve months, including the establishment of a building committee, a feasibility and design study, work with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) regarding the change in site.

There was a discussion of the Director's Performance Review with Trustee Alligood moving that the quantitative portion of the Director's Performance Review be submitted to the town administrator; this was seconded by Trustee Keenan. Trustee Lowrie moved that the chair be authorized to summarize comments on the evaluation; this was seconded by Trustee Rich. After Trustee Tomford noted that the trustees must approve both portions of the review, both Trustees Alligood and Lowrie withdrew their motions. The entire document will be voted at the September 24th meeting..

In updating personnel, Director Connors noted that Christine Hunnefeld has accepted a position in Framingham; Deborah Borsuk has been hired as the new Young Adult librarian.

New Business:

Director Connors is waiting for more information from the town on the requested budget cut. The Citizen-Herald is interested in notes from each trustees' meeting for publication. While this is another PR opportunity, there is the concern that what is submitted must be approved by the

trustees. The newsworthy stories, such as the YA librarian hire, seem to be stand-alone stories which are submitted by the library.

The proposed meeting on the State of the Library was discussed. With so little solid information on the state grant, the site, and so on, it seems that this is not the appropriate time to match the new library with a meeting concerned about budget concerns which raise the question of the Benton branch library.

The following is the schedule for up-coming meetings:

Wednesday September 24th LRP and Director's Performance Review

Monday October 6th Meeting with Board of Selectmen

Tuesday October 14th Planning meeting

Tuesday October 21st Trustees Meeting.

On a motion from Trustee Lowrie, seconded by Chair Shubin, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Mary E. Keenan, secretary